

many previous occasions by Delegate Dorothy Scott Murray. Mrs. Murray, we thank you very much.

*(Applause.)*

THE PRESIDENT: The flowers on the rostrum to my left have been placed there by Delegate Mrs. Beatrice Miller, Delegate Maurer, and Mrs. Koss, the ladies from Montgomery County, and we thank them also.

*(Applause.)*

THE PRESIDENT: It is a real privilege to welcome today and to recognize the presence in the chamber of so many distinguished guests, although I do not have a complete list of the names of those present.

Chief Judge Robert Murphy of the Intermediate Court of Appeals; Deputy Attorney General Robert F. Sweeney; Senator Blair Lee, the Majority Leader of the House of Delegates; Senator Edward Hall, Minority Leader in the Senate; Senator Edward Conroy.

Unavoidably, the Governor could not be present. He has sent me a message and he has asked me in addition to express his sincere regrets that prior commitments in Baltimore made it impossible for him to be present this morning.

The Clerk will read this message from the Governor.

READING CLERK: "To the Delegates of the Constitutional Convention of Maryland:

"Upon the convocation of this Convention, I expressed my hope that you would draft a document designed to endure; a Constitution which adhered to great principles and still assured flexibility for the future. The Constitution which you sign today more than fulfills my hopes.

"Maryland owes a debt to you, the forefathers of the future, for you have created a Constitution which I believe is without parallel in this nation. Throughout the past months you have labored conscientiously, subordinating personal and partisan interests to achieve the best interests of Maryland. The 1968 Constitution reveals in its brevity and honest simplicity the success of your endeavors.

"I am grateful to have served as Governor during this historic convention, and I look forward with confidence to the

day of ratification. You have created a superb Constitution. It is one in which all Marylanders can take pride, an enduring document truly able to sustain our State in this century and serve as our heritage for the next one hundred years. I congratulate you and I salute you.

"Spiro T. Agnew."

*(Applause.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Let me interrupt the formal proceedings to continue with several announcements which I interrupted in recognizing the presence of guests. Judge Mathias and Judge Shirley Jones who is one of the first women to be appointed to the bench in the State of Maryland.

*(Applause.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Another announcement, really not a part of the proceeding, but it may be the only way we can have the message delivered promptly.

Delegate John Moser found a pearl earring at the Governor's party. If any of you ladies dropped a pearl earring, you can retrieve it from Mrs. Agnew. It is in Mrs. Agnew's possession.

On behalf of the entire convention—and I cannot say and their ladies—I have to say and their spouses—the Chair wants to extend the very sincere thanks of all of us to Governor and Mrs. Agnew for a memorable occasion last evening in the newly decorated mansion Government House. All of us had a delightful time.

*(Applause.)*

I have a letter which I have had handed to me this morning. I am going to ask the Reading Clerk to read it.

Those of you in the galleries who are here for the first time perhaps will not fully understand this and it therefore may not be remiss for me to take a moment to say a word about the delight which the Convention has had in the service rendered by the pages to this Convention. They are a group of high school youngsters, seventy-six in all, who have served, each one of them, for a period of four weeks in periods of two weeks each. They are far enough advanced in their studies that they have been able to leave school this past term for that length of time. This has been an experiment with us. Its success really outdoes that of the Convention itself. We have all been delighted, and I would like